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Experience Bobo Experience

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ARTIST STATEMENT:

As an artist, I have primarily synthesized work in clay, cardboard, and marker. My 3D sculptural work is created with a nonrepresentational agenda and is an exploration of the medium. Some of my current 2D work is line drawings with text. I created a clown character, Bobo, who was the star of single framed adventures, which I often taped to the foil wrappings of homemade lunch burritos, as a logo would be. Snapple's "Bottle Cap Real Facts" employs a similar tactic. Themes of action with a bit of overzealousness and reflection were illustrated. I was inspired by the adventure oriented work of Bill Watterson, with "Calvin and Hobbes." Now, I have expanded Bobo to include an educational component that may serve as a tool in tackling the overwhelming nature of adulthood.

Many times a cultural reference, inserted as an educational component, was dropped into my lexicon by an unexpected source, such as a Wagner Opera in a 1957 Looney Tunes rerun. Sesame Street, as well, is genius at incorporating complex adult culture references into their educational programming. These sort of references plant seeds; intellectual wildflower seeds that have been tossed forward in order to land, root, bloom, and transform us. My own personal inquiries into literature and philosophy are sourced by such "seeds." My goal is to add to this conversation of reference and learning by presenting fundamental questions of existence that we all may ask ourselves, and offer exploration through the world of illustration.

PROJECT STATEMENT:

My Senior Capstone is about using inspirational wisdom from acknowledged sources to address the quandaries of our human experiences. Cartoon based cultural and educational giants such as Looney Tunes and Sesame Street have inspired me to use illustration to present complex philosophical inquiries that transform our life outlook. I have chosen a cognitive clown, named Bobo, to investigate Henry David Thoreau, Jack Kerouac, and Allen Watts. Bobo, my character, goes on a journey of learning. Bobo is a line drawing, rendered in marker, with a circular head, two dot eyes, three puffs of hair with a clown smile and clown clothing. *Experience Bobo Experience* speaks to viewers who have struggled with adult situations of frustration, disillusionment, and spiritual fatigue and youth may be attracted to the joyous and playful aesthetic. Throughout my aesthetic and individual exploration I have created a methodology sourced by advisor feedback, YouTube tutorials, CSUMB staff skill teachings, and brainstorming with friends and family with the end goal of engaging my audience. Work is done on paper and wood, in marker and printed ink, accented with cardboard and fabric in the form of hard case book covers. I offer take-away books and stickers to solidify the passing on of information and the transferring of simple ideas about self. If clarity within the story is achieved, and an environment of learning and optimism is created, my work has succeeded. I couple inspirational wisdom with a cognitive clown in order to investigate self-reliance, the dharma spirit, and the nonexistence of the Ego.